dwelt on the theme of national preparedness for defense. This message, like the inaugural address, showed careful study and thought. It could be taken as a clear indication that the Filipino people intended to follow the rough path to independence without wavering and desired to make that independence secure against internal and external dangers.

THE COMMONWEALTH BEGINS TO FUNCTION

The two men most responsible for the auspicious inauguration of the Commonwealth of the Philippines were Governor-General Frank Murphy and President Manuel L. Quezon. As far as human sagacity could anticipate, jointly and separately, they made ready for the momentous event.

Governor-General Murphy made it his purpose to close the books of one regime with all pending matters decided, and to open them for another regime with clean pages. Nor was this the work of the moment. On the contrary, it represented a hard two and a half year job.

In the Philippines the Chief Executive had two main objectives. He had to insist on the maintenance of financial stability and he had to contribute to social betterment to thwart widespread unrest. Neither was a simple matter. He could not content himself with saying, there shall be centralized financial control, there shall be a balanced budget, there shall be a treasury with money available to turn over to my successor. He had to keep continuously after officials to have governmental expenditures remain within income and he

had to do the disagreeable thing of vetoing money bills passed by the legislative body. But he did his duty without flinching, with the result that government finances were in a sound condition. In his effort to contribute to human happiness and the contentment of the people, he was able to accomplish his purpose but partially, for it was a problem not soluble in a day or a year.